

Application Serial No. 09/769,672
Amendment dated July 7, 2003
Reply to Office Action dated April 10, 2003

On page 4, before the paragraph beginning "The invention is explained . . .", please insert the following paragraph:

In one form thereof, the present invention provides a process for producing a glass melt, including the steps of melting glass in a first stage; refining the melt in a second stage, the melt having a polyvalent ion content of at least 0.5 wt. %, with at least one of said melting and refining steps conducted at a temperature of at least 1800° C; and homogenizing and conditioning the glass in a third stage. In a further form, at least one of said melting and refining steps is conducted at a temperature of between 2100° C and 2400° C and above.